



Latin Handwriting

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Introduction

OBJECTIVES

You will be able to:

- use online resources to help you read Latin documents
- learn basic Latin grammar in order to determine relationships
- read Latin documents at a basic level

Usefulness

Latin has been the language of the Church for centuries and many records were written in Latin, either in toto or in part. Being able to read Latin gives you access to the information in many records.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Latin is an Indo-European language, which means that it is related to English, German, Russian, and number of other languages, mostly found in Europe and in a swath that reaches into India. It is the mother language of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, and a few other languages, which we designate as 'Romance. English has borrowed thousands of words from Latin and the other Romance languages, especially French. This has changed the vocabulary of English tremendously and has led some people to believe that English is descended from Latin. Such is not the case. English is a Germanic language, mostly closely related to Dutch, Frisian, German, Afrikaans, and the Scandinavian languages. However, the borrowing of so many Latin-based words into English makes reading Latin much easier for the English speaker than it would have been had such borrowing not occurred.

Here is how to search a webpage for a specific word:

On a PC press the 'control' button and hold it down while you press the 'F' button. Depending on the browser you use, a box will appear at the top right, left, or bottom left. Type a word or any letter string, i.e. part of a word, into the box. That letter string will then be highlighted. If there is more than one occurrence of that string, such will be indicated and you can click the arrow to find each occurrence.

On a Mac it's the command and f button at the same time.

Dictionaries, word lists and other aides:

The following numbers refer to the webinar number in the Learning Center:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/latin-handwriting-1-introduction>

There are ten lessons, but the first is the introduction, so it is not listed below and the numbering begins with the second webinar. Please watch those webinars.

- 1- FamilySearch Latin Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

This is the site to start with when looking for genealogical terms. It includes subsections for topical vocabulary items, such as numbers, key words, and abbreviations. The general word list is Latin to English.

- 2- Google Translate <https://translate.google.com/>

This is an easy-to-use site. You can search either Latin to English or English to Latin.

- 3- How to decline personal names

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/reference/how-to-decline-personal-names/>

This site shows you the many endings in all the cases of personal names. One caveat—in the first declension genitive and dative this site gives the simplified ending –e where you would normally see ae or æ.

- 4- Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

This is a wonderful dictionary with many terms. Of particular importance is that it gives the various declensions of the items, including given names. This will help you understand the grammar.

- 5- Lewis & Short: Latin-English dictionary
Smith & Hall: English-Latin dictionary
Döderlein's Hand-book of Latin Synonymes
Horae Latinae: Studies in Synonyms and Syntax
<https://latinitium.com/latin-dictionaries/>

This a very good set of dictionaries and other works that translate from English to Latin.

Other aides:

- 6- The Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

This encyclopedia will give detailed explanations of many terms dealing with the Catholic church. To increase your understanding of cultural items, see this encyclopedia.

You will often encounter various abbreviations in your documents. The following two sites will give the expansion of the abbreviations, which means that you will still have to translate the terms to a language that you understand.

- 7- *Dizionario di Abbreviature Latine ed Italiani* This book appears on two websites. Try them both and decide which you like more. The abbreviations and special symbols are arranged alphabetically. However, some symbols are not really letters, but they will be grouped with the letter that they most resemble. At the beginning of each letter of the alphabet there is a list of variant letters. Have a look at several letters to get an idea of how valuable this will be for you.

<https://archive.org/details/CappelliDizionarioDiAbbreviature>

http://hist.msu.ru/departments/8823/projects/Cappelli/index.php?sphrase_id=121340

- 8- Latin Language and Script: Gallery of Latin Abbreviations

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~chevaud/latin_abbrev.htm

This site gives a number of abbreviations and explains them in detail.

- 9- *Parish Register Latin: An Introduction* by C. Russell Jensen. This book gives more detailed grammar than what is given in the present course. It also offers documents for translation with notes and vocabulary lists. This book is for those who want more in-depth learning. No reference will be made to it in this course.

<https://archive.org/details/parishregisterla00crus/page/n5/mode/2up>

Part 1: Dictionaries, Word lists and other aides:

Activity 1:

For this activity, find these words in the FamilySearch Latin Genealogical word list:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

Do a control F (or command f) search for these words and write all the different Latin words that you find for each English word.

Objectives of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with the FamilySearch Latin word list
- 2- You will learn how to search using the control F feature
- 3- You will learn many Latin vocabulary items

Ex. Death	mortuus, defunctus, obitus, denatus, decessus, peritus, mors, mortis, obiit, decessit
Godparents	

Marriage	
Mother	
Baptized	
Birth	
Child	
Witnesses	
Godmother	
Godfather	
Father	
Buried	
Wife	

Activity 2:

Objectives of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with the various word lists and dictionaries that you will need
- 2- You will learn many Latin vocabulary items
- 3- Learn to use the *Catholic Encyclopedia*

For this activity, look at the document and see if you can recognize any of the cognates. Can you more or less make out what is being said in this document?

Annus, mensis, dies.	Mors et sepultura.
1863 Mense Januario	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo <i>sexagesimo tertio</i> Die <i>trigesima</i> , hora <i>sexta vespertina</i> obiit aetate annorum <i>unius</i> infans <i>Barbara</i> , filia <i>legitima Petri Hermann & Catharinae</i> <i>Kraemer</i> , conjugum in <i>Bettingen</i> et post <i>tres</i> dies in coemeterio <i>nostro hujate</i> sepulta est. In fidem <i>A. Garisch & Culmburger past.</i>

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-W?cc=27902684300-000201%2F1>

Now, use these sites to look up each of the following words. You will not find all of the words in any one site, but will have to use both of them.

FamilySearch Latin Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

Sexagesima (look up this word in the <i>Catholic Encyclopedia</i>)	
sexagesimo	
vespertina	
filia	
nostro	
hujate	

Part 2: Grammar: Cases

Latin is what we call a synthetic, as opposed to an analytical, language. This means that Latin has a tremendous number of word endings. How a noun or pronoun functions in a sentence is indicated by word endings, not by word order, as in English.

Case	Use
Nominative	This is the subject of the sentence I baptized the child.
Genitive	This is the 'owner' of an item. In English, we often indicate this with 's or <i>of</i> ... The child of Thomas and Mary (or Thomas' and Mary's child) was baptized)
Dative	This is the beneficiary of the action, i.e. the person for whom something is done For John and Mary I baptized the child.
Accusative	This is the receiver of the action I baptized the child.

Here are the most common endings for three of the five noun groups, which we call 'declensions.'

Case	1 st decl.	2 nd decl.	3 rd decl.
Nominative	Maria Matthias	Petrus	Joannes
Genitive	Mariae Matthiae	Petri	Joannis
Dative	Mariae Matthiae	Petro	Joanni
Accusative	Mariam Matthiam	Petrum	Joannem

Activity 3:

Objective of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with the use of cases in order to determine who is doing what to whom in the sentence.

From these two documents, look up the first two names in the box below and tell the case and function in the sentence of each one. A few extra names that are not in the documents have been added as well. Do the same for them. You can use the chart above (recommended) or these two websites, but you should familiarize yourself with these sites:

How to decline personal names <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/reference/how-to-decline-personal-names/> One caveat—in the first declension genitive and dative this site gives the simplified ending –e where you would normally see ae or æ.

Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

Annus, mensis, dies.	Mors et sepultura.
1863. Mense Januario	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo sexagesimo tertio Die trigesima, hora sexta vespertina obiit aetate annorum unius infans Barbara, filia legitima Petri Hermann & Catharinae Praemer, conjugum in Bettingen et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate sepulta est. In fidem A. Garisch & Culmburg past.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-W?cc=27902684300-000201%2F1>

Mense februario	Die vigesima octava, hora 7 ^{ma} matut. obiit aetate annorum hebdomatum quinque infans Matthias, filius legitimus Matthiae Frank & Barbarae Haubert, conjugum in Bettingen et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate sepulta est. In fidem A. Garisch & Culmburg past.
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<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-W?cc=2790268>

Name	Case
Example: Barbara	Nominative. Subject of the sentence. The person being baptized.
Petri	
Catharinae	
Joanni	
Matthiae	
Annam	

Activity 4 Translations and transcriptions:

For the following documents, use the skills that you have developed and resources that you have learned to translate and transcribe the following documents. The beginning document are easy to transcribe. Lines will be provided for your work.

When you transcribe or translate a document, you should stay true to the lines as they appear in the documents. This means that if there are seven lines in the original document, you should have seven lines in your transcription and, if possible, translation. If you are only extracting information, which you will often do, you do not need to stay true to the lines.

For these exercises do not get hung-up on the surnames and place names. Those will be dependent on the area in which you are researching. Do pay special attention to given names, though.

Document 1

If you are working with a baptismal record and you see the words *natus* and *renatus*, what do you automatically know about the person being baptized? What if you see *nata* and *renata*?

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-Z?i=120&cc=2790268>

[illegible]

Document 2

Mense <i>April</i>	Die <i>trigesima</i> , hora <i>9^{na}</i> <i>vespertina</i> obiit
	aetate ann orum <i>unius mensium decem</i> infans
	<i>Petrus, filius legitimus Petri Bernar-</i>
	<i>ding & Mariae Erbel, conjugum</i>
	<i>in Aussen;</i>
	et post <i>tres</i> dies in coemeterio <i>nostro hujate</i>
	sepultus est.
	In fidem <i>H. Garisch & Gumbelgera pastor</i>

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QY-1?i=121&cc=2790268>

Document 3

Annus, mensis, dies.	Infantes baptizati, parentes, levantes.
1891... Majus 31. a.	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo nonagesimo primo die vigesima secunda ch. s. m. mensis Maji natus est et die trigesima prima mensis Maji baptizatus est Nicolaus Angel filius legitimus Petri Angel et Annae Mariae Spang conjugum in Aysen. Levantes erant: Nicolaus Tupper et Maria Spang in Aysen. In fidem: J. Haas, par.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S95M-3?i=274&cc=2790268>

Document 4

NB! Look up *-que* in the Latin word list!

Die 21^a hujus natus eademque die renatus est
joannes Hermann, filius leg. Nicolai Hermann et
Margarithae Erpel conj. ex aulien. levantibus
joanne Hermann et Barbara Hermann aibus ex
Tausen,

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X968-9?i=249&cat=96811>

Document 5

Die 14^e Majus natus alteraque die renatus est Godfridus
 Wilmst pater leg. Godfridis Wilmst et Anna
 Quinten conj. et athen; baptizatus Godfridus
 Reiter et Anna Maria Wilmst ambobus ex
 Weiskirchen

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X968-9?i=249&cat=96811>

Document 6

Die Decimo tertio aprilis hora octava videremus
 +9
 Vesperina pie obiit in Bettingen fortunis Schneider
 Aetatis quinquaginta quinque annorum uxor legitima
 Philippi Quinten ex Aussen A postea die Decimo
 quinto sepulta est in Bettingen
 Clemens pastor in Bettingen

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X9DW-J?i=169&cat=96811>

Document 7

Anno 1817 Die 21 aprilij horexentem 10^{ma} post meridiana
 natus et die sequenti baptizatus est joannis filius legitimus
 joannis Kleinkeuer et Margrethae Lenthof conjugum
 ex aucten. Levantes erant joannis et Annemaria
 Lenthof ex Bettingen. Clemens

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X96J-2?i=221&cat=96811>

Document 8

Before you translate the document, look at the numbers and letters in the right-hand column.

What do they mean; what is the date? Answer: Those are the date: 9th of September

Die nona Septembris factis de more tribus proclama:
tionibus nulloque impedimento detecto in facie ecclesie
Matrimonium contraxerunt philippus Matthes viduus
et civis in Lauschied et Maria Elisabetha Schneiderin
soluta, Maria Margretha filia illegitima ex Lauschied. testes
speciales erant philippus Sibila conjugatus et civis in Lau:
schied et Jacobus Genser solutus ex Lauschied. Matrimo:
nio assistebat Fr. Palatinus Corneli qui supra.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTY-73TD-T?i=270>

Document 9

Tribus proclamationibus in ecclesia parochiali rite factis nullaque
 impedimento canonico detecto per honestas Haarmon Schmitt
 filium legitimum Adami Schmitt et defunctae Gertrudis Wilhelm
 conjugum hujatum - et Annam Müller, filij Jacobi Müller
 et Elisabethae Klein, conjugum similiter hujatum, Die 11^{ma} Jani
 1889 coram me et duobus testibus Jacobo Emlede et Haanne
 Annam am hucus in Lieder habitantibus matrimonium
 in facie ecclesiae solemnizatum et
 ita testantur Schuster parochus
 sponsus: Joseph V. V. V.
 sponsa: scribens imperita signum manus suae X fecit.
 testes: Joseph V. V. V. Annam

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-W9YQ-4?cc=27902684300-000201%2F1>

Document 10

2^o cond nati natus joanni wilhelmo Laur, et Mariae Laur
Laur conjugibus ex Legi. Salus Joës Laure, et renatus 2^{is}
eiusdem conjugibus Joanne Laur et Clara Laur ex
Legi. —

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTY-73YH-9>

Document 11

Objective of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with various works dedicated to Latin abbreviations.

To start this activity, read or skim this page well enough that you at least know generally what is there and can refer to it later when you need help. No one can remember all these things, but familiarity and knowing how to find information is valuable:

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~chevaud/latin_abbrev.htm

Before you start with Document 11, refer to document 4 and look at the abbreviation that is the second-to-last word in the last full line. What is it? ōibus Look that up in the one of the following works and tell what the expansion is. omnibus For document 11, you are given a document that includes a number of abbreviations. Use these tools to expand the abbreviations that are underlined in the text:

<https://archive.org/details/CappelliDizionarioDiAbbreviature>

http://hist.msu.ru/departments/8823/projects/Cappelli/index.php?sphrase_id=121340

Choose whichever version of this book you like better. Remember to look at the beginning of several letter sections to see variant letter forms. You will need that in order to figure out some of the letters. Also know that not every abbreviation can be listed in any work. There are simply too many. But if you can find something that is close or partial, you may have found the meaning that you are looking for.

If you need help reading the text, look at the URL. But still look up the abbreviations in the book.

Margareta filia Volati dicti Journaul condam burgum morque & Agnetis
 filie condam mermeti & cubana nuc vpor petri foresterij fabri morque &
 Laude aucte voluntate & expresse consensu dicti petri foresterij viri sui confectum
 & in veritate recognoscit pro se & suis heredibus quibuscumque se tenere et
 possidere ad censum perpetuum a prefatis dominis priore & eius conventu
 re & possessione infra scripta sit et saltem in territorij de solent. Et primo
 quartum vincti ppe vincti loco dicto ee corp suu en marsellin mpo vincti
 margarete vporis mermeti f du four sorore dictae qsten a pte borge vincti
 Johanne Richard a parte vincti vincti dute confitentie a pte vincti auctoy
 buaguardi & guillelmi rlement a lacu Item loco dicto en pierobaz dimidia
 posam vincti iuxta vincti sique nodi bonel de laz pra a pte borge vincti
 margarete sorore dictae confitentie a parte vincti vincti modu guardiam
 burgum morque a iur et viam publica a pte lacus sup qua pena vincti
 peripuit dimidiam decima Item tenet medietatem pro indiviso cum
 Marguareta sorore sua predicta vincti morcelli vincti su ead duto

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~chevaud/latin_Fg6_8v.htm

Please note that in some cases, it was difficult or impossible to find a particular symbol to insert that looked exactly what you see in the document.

Line	Abbr/contr	Expansion as in transcription	What did you find in the book?	What is the expansion in the book?
2	nuc			
3	aucte			
8	pte			
11	p ^a te			
13	sup			